

people" who could be pushed to attack U.S. targets.

"It's like the devil sitting on their shoulders saying, 'Kill, kill, kill,'" Comey told reporters.

The United States has entered a "new phase, in my view, in the global terrorist threat," Jeh Johnson, director of Homeland Security, said Friday on MSNBC.

"We have to be concerned about the independent actor, and the independent actor who is here in the homeland who may strike with little or no warning," he said. "The nature of the global terrorist threat has evolved."

That poses a special challenge for U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies, which spent years desperately trying to penetrate and understand Al Qaeda's rigid hierarchy and top-down approach to terrorism.

Now they are struggling to detect and prevent lethal attacks by individuals—such as the April 2013 bombing of the Boston Marathon by two Russian-born brothers—with little or no outside communication or support.

The administration has sought to stiffen homeland defenses, and intelligence gathering, in response.

This month, U.S. Northern Command boosted security at all bases in the United States. Officials cited the May 3 shooting in Texas, specific threats against military personnel and the increasing number of Americans communicating with Islamic State supporters.

In March, a group calling itself "Islamic State Hacking Division" posted online the names, home addresses and photos of 100 U.S. troops. The group wrote on Twitter that it was posting the apparent hit list "so that our brothers residing in America can deal with you."

More armed guards have been deployed at federal buildings across the country, and Homeland Security officials have quietly urged more security at privately run facilities and infrastructure that could be targeted, including shopping malls, railroads, water treatment facilities and nuclear power generators.

"Since last summer we have ramped up security at federal installations across the country, and we have increased our outreach with critical infrastructure operators," a senior Homeland Security official said in an interview.

Authorities have urged companies to conduct more "active shooter" drills to "heighten awareness and make sure people are leaning forward with security protocols," he said. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss internal communications and security measures.

Defeating Islamic State will take not only the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Syria, U.S. officials said, but stronger international efforts to block foreign recruits from joining and to cut the group's financing networks. Officials acknowledge they also need better messaging to counter a barrage of polished videos, social media and Internet appeals from the militants.

"It's a long-term challenge," Brett McGurk, deputy assistant secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs, told CNN. "We have not seen this before. And it's going to take a very long time to defeat them."

Still, attacking Western targets is not the group's top priority, as it was for Osama bin Laden, according to Seth Jones, a former U.S. counter-terrorism official now with Rand Corp., the Santa Monica-based think tank. The group is far more focused on the battleground in Iraq and Syria, and establishing ties to terrorist groups in Libya, Yemen, Algeria and elsewhere.

Without a strong hand to help direct and organize attacks abroad, they are "likely to

be less sophisticated," Jones said. "You actually need a lot of training to conduct a Madrid-style attack or a London-style attack. Those kinds of bombs are hard to put together."

Most of the 30 Americans arrested this year were suspected of aiding or trying to join Islamic State. Many were approached on social media or on chat programs designed for cellphones.

In March, for example, a 22-year-old Army National Guard specialist was arrested at Chicago Midway International Airport as he allegedly attempted to join Islamic State in Syria. The FBI said he had downloaded military training manuals to take with him and told an undercover agent he was prepared to "bring the flames of war" to the United States.

That same month, a retired Air Force avionics instrument specialist was arrested in Brooklyn, N.Y., on suspicion of trying to travel to Syria to join the group. Prosecutors in Brooklyn also have charged three other men with seeking to link up with the militants.

And on Thursday, the FBI arrested a former interpreter for the U.S. military in Iraq, now a naturalized American citizen, who had tried to travel to Syria from Texas. In June he had used Twitter to "pledge obedience" to Islamic State.

"As a numbers game, it is pretty easy for ISIS to reach out to a very large number of people using a very robust social media presence," said J.M. Berger, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, using a common acronym for Islamic State.

"I suspect we should see more plots going forward," he added.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

HELPING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I think everyone knows that I disagree with the reasoning for the trade bill. Based on my experience of looking at trade bills that have passed the Congress in years past, it is not going to help the people whom I want to help.

I am happy that multinational corporations are doing well, but my first goal is not them. It is people who work for a living, middle-class Americans, who work so hard, first of all to find a job, and then once they find a job, they do everything they can to hang on to that job. The trade bill is another example of how we have ignored in this Congress the working men and women of this country.

I so admire our ranking member of the banking committee, Senator BROWN of Ohio. He has done a remarkably good job of pointing out what is wrong with the trade bill. It passed, and I accept this. The vast majority of Democrats opposed it, but there are some who didn't. I respect them, and I respect their judgment. I am not here to criticize them. I am here to criticize the underlying legislation. This Republican-led Senate has done nothing to help the middle class. It doesn't matter what you look to—minimum wage, equal pay for men and women, the bur-

den of student debt, and, of course, the tremendous lack of impetus to do something about our surface transportation system, our highways.

We have 64,000 bridges in America that are structurally deficient. Fifty percent of our highway roads are deficient, and we do nothing. Likely, what will happen here in the next day or two is that we will extend the highway authorization for 60 days. It should be pretty easy to do because we have done it 32 other times.

Since the Republicans came to town and started flexing their muscles, we found a situation where they were unwilling to help middle-class Americans. Think about that. Our country has 64,000 bridges that are structurally deficient. Does this really matter? Well, talk to the people of Minnesota. One of their bridges collapsed and 13 people died. Of course it matters, and we are ignoring it as a Congress, and that is not right.

Ray LaHood, a Republican, who was Secretary of Transportation for President Obama for a long time, said that our transportation system should be called the pothole because that is all the highways are anymore.

The trade bill is an example of not helping the middle class, and it is an example of how we focus on multinational corporations.

My friend the Republican leader talked about the FISA bill, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Republican leader and I are friends. We have served together for decades here in this body. But with all due respect to him, I think I will take the word and opinion of the head of the FBI, the Attorney General of the United States, and the man who is in charge of all of our intelligence, James Clapper, who has said, without any question, that the bill that passed the House of Representatives—by almost 390 votes—is what we should be doing here.

Among other things, in a letter they wrote to Senators LEAHY and LEE, they say:

The Intelligence Community believes that the bill preserves essential operational capabilities of the telephone metadata program and enhances other intelligence capabilities needed to protect our Nation and its partners.

I repeat, the bill passed by a 4-to-1 margin in the House of Representatives. My friend the Republican leader talks continually about bipartisanship. We have a piece of legislation out of the House. It was one of the rare times where bipartisan efforts were made and they worked. They passed this bill, and we should do the same before we leave here rather than extend this program.

Efforts have been made to extend a program that has already been declared by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States as illegal. How can we extend an illegal act? That is what some of the talk is from the other side of the aisle. I think that is unfortunate, and I think we should make sure that before we leave here, we do what